the SCRIPT

INTERNATIONAL TRANSACTIONAL ANALYSIS ASSOCIATION

VOL. 42 NO. 10
OCTOBER 2012

IN THIS ISSUE

The New Consensus
1

Indian Presenters Sparkle in Chennai
5

Unsettled Gifts from the Chennai Conference
8

First SAATA Diploma
11

Osaka Conference Welcome
12

BOARD NOTES

The New Consensus

by John Heath



John Heath is honored with celebratory wreath at the Chennai opening ceremonies at Kalakshetra

Regular readers of *The Script* will already know from the September issue that the 2012 conference in Chennai was a resounding success. I doubt I shall ever forget it.

Transactional analysis certainly found itself in fertile territory in India, and our work flourished as a result. The everyday wisdom and search for deeper meaning that is part of the Indian mind was a joy to behold and to be part of. India is a vast country of openhearted people, where every aspect of human life is there to be seen. Little of the human condition is hidden from view in India. You can walk down the street and see exquisite beauty, terrible dirt, fine old buildings, modern wealthy businesses, crushing poverty, optimistic youth, old age, disease, decay, and holiness, all in the space of 10 minutes. There are vibrant and energetic people going about their business in streets where homeless people sleep in corners and cows chew their cud in the road as the traffic speeds by. To a Western visitor like me, India is a wonderful, life-affirming place where the spirits open and worries fall away. There everything, whatever its outer presentation, looks like just a part of the rich diversity of life. Somehow India invites us to see beyond what our ego normally limits us to seeing.

As well as hosting a wonderful conference, Chennai was also the meeting point for several important gatherings. The board of trustees (BOT) met for 2 days and tackled a huge agenda. There was also an ITAA members' meeting, a meeting of presidents and representatives of transactional analysis organizations from around the world, a transactional analysis trainers' meeting, and a day-long interorganizational meeting to look at issues of mutuality and compatibility in TA training and accreditation. This last group was convened at the invitation of the presidents of the European Association for Transactional Analysis (EATA) and the ITAA. The same spirit of participation and cooperation pervaded each of these meetings. It was impossible to miss the sense of care and commitment with which people spoke, over and over again.

The conference theme, "Life – Let's Play," was an invitation to the Hindu spirit of Leela to come among us. I think that is exactly what happened. At least it is a powerful way to think about what happened. So many people said to me that they had never witnessed such an atmosphere of shared purpose and creativity. Giles Barrow, in the trainers' meeting, likened the flow of enthusiasm and optimism among us to the new energy that emerges when an impasse is resolved. This

was an inspired comment, made at just the right moment. His observation helped to intensify the sense that something new could now happen. Whether we explain the phenomenon using our own familiar theory or whether we greet it as the blessing of Leela is not important. The lived experience is the same.

I do not think it is an exaggeration to say that a new consensus has begun to emerge in our transactional analysis world. The consensus is about the need to cooperate and to avoid unnecessary competition and conflict. I am so grateful to have been part of it, and I am pledged to do all I can to foster and build on it.

The board faced a 21-point agenda, which we got through with barely a hitch. We were joined this time by *TAJ* and *Script* Managing Editor Robin Fryer, who proved to be an invaluable member of the team. She is centrally involved in much of the ITAA's core business and carries the history of over 3 decades of organizational life, far more than any trustee could hope to gather. This means that she brings both an up-to-the-minute awareness of the relevant issues and the knowledge of former times and how things have come to be. We would like to have the finances to enable her to attend BOT meetings on an annual basis, but sadly, we are not in a position to decide that at this time. We will look at it on a year-by-year basis and budget for her attendance if we can.



ITAA trustees at the Chennai board meeting (from left): Sabine Klingenberg (ex officio member representing EATA), Mohanraj, Milly De Micheli, Vladimir Gussakovski, Erich Kosloski, Susan George, Mandy Lacy, John Heath, Karen Pratt, Steff Oates, and Suriyaprakash

The motions passed at the meeting will be outlined in a future edition of *The Script*, so I won't list them here. I want to use this column to thank particular colleagues for their contributions, beginning with those whose terms of office have now ended. Leaving us this year are C. Suriyaprakash (vice president of research and innovation), Vern Masse (treasurer), Vann Joines (regional trustee, North America), and Erich Kosloski (regional trustee, Latin America). I feel a particular debt of gratitude to these colleagues, who were part of the team in 2010 when the responsibility of the presidency fell to me in such spectacularly unexpected circumstances. I will miss them all for the sense of battle-tested loyalty that this shared experience engendered.

Suriya and Vann will both continue as active colleagues in the context of the new Training and Certification Council (T&CC) Board of Directors. Their steady and level-headed companionship and support in helping bring about the changes in T&CC have been priceless assets to me in steering a course through this difficult transition. The input from both of these men is a fine example of the unseen work of service to the ITAA, the extent of which can never fully be reported to members. Suriya has been part of the ITAA Executive Committee during the whole of my time in office, and he has shown himself to be a multitalented man with exceptional gifts. His knowledge of procedures and bylaws is second to none, and yet he manages to hold his knowledge lightly so that discussion flows and conclusions emerge naturally. I am hopeful that he will one day return to the board of trustees to serve again. Members will be well advised to do what they can to persuade him when the time is right.

Vann's massive international reputation as an American transactional analysis professional is pure gold in the context of the modern ITAA. Transactional analysis grew in the American context, and the ITAA is invested in helping it to flourish there again. Vann does much personally to keep that possibility alive. He has been a great link between the ITAA and the USA Transactional Analysis Association (USATAA) and has helped us pave the way to new understandings.

Vern is an experienced board member, having served several terms of office during his career. He has been treasurer for the last 6 years and has never failed to

the SCRIPT

Newsletter of the International Transactional Analysis Association
2843 Hopyard Rd., Suite 155,
Pleasanton, CA 94588, USA
Fax: 925-600-8112
Email: info@itaaworld.org
Website: www.itaaworld.org

Editor: Laurie Hawkes, MA,
Managing Editor: Robin Fryer, MSW
Desktop Publishing: lockwood design
Deadline for November *Script*: 12 October.

The Script (ISSN 0164-7393) is published monthly by the International Transactional Analysis Association. For information on membership, visit www.itaaworld.org or contact the ITAA at the above address.

© 2012 International Transactional Analysis Association, Inc.



Presidents'/Representatives' Meeting (from left): Lucy Freedman (USATAA), P. K. Saru (SAATA, South Asia), M. V. Kunjachan (ICTA, South India), Diane Salters (SATA, South Africa), Mandy Lacy (FTAA, Australasia), John Heath (ITAA), Rajkumari (Nitya Gurukula, Coimbatore), Kong Seet Mui (TAA, Singapore), Vann Joines (USATAA), and Sabine Klingenberg (EATA). Not shown: Erich Kosloski (UNAT, Brazil), who was at the meeting but had to leave to catch his flight home.

keep our feet on the ground in matters financial. He has worked in tandem with Ken Fogleman to set up systems following the closure of the office and has been a central figure in modernizing the ITAA. He has now retired from much of his work, and I, and all his former colleagues, wish him and his wife, Ruth, joy and fulfillment in this new stage of their lives.

Erich is a rising star taken from us, temporarily we hope, by the success of his other work and the demands that this brings. He is a lawyer in his native Brazil and has the sharp mind and attention to detail that you would expect of someone of that profession. He has done a great deal to deepen our understanding on the board of transactional analysis in Latin America and has helped build some much needed bridges for us. He is standing down from the board after one term so that he can pursue other urgent career developments, but he has agreed to work with us for a few months beyond his term to complete a first draft consultation about a new structure for ITAA's bylaws.

It is also my great pleasure to welcome some new people to the board. Susan George, formerly the regional trustee for India/Asia, has now begun a term of office as vice president of development. Diane Salters, an experienced board member from former terms of office, has agreed to serve again now that she has completed her TSTA exam (congratulations, Diane!). She is our new vice president of research and innovation. We have a new treasurer, A. Geethan, a transactional analysis psychotherapist and trainer from Chennai. He has a business background and mercifully is no stranger to budget spreadsheets. I. A. Mohanraj, who has served on the board before, has returned again as the regional trustee for the India/Asia region. Emily Keller has joined as regional trustee for North America. Bill Holloway, now a resident of Brazil and a former ITAA President in 1976-1977, has come back to the board as regional trustee for Latin America. I am grateful to them all for their willingness to work with us and serve this organization.

I must not miss the chance to thank those other colleagues on the board. They are vice president of operations Vladimir Gussakovski, secretary Steff Oates, regional trustee for Africa Karen Pratt, regional trustee for Australasia Mandy Lacy, and regional trustee for Europe Milly De Micheli. Their contributions are many, complex, and too numerous to do justice to here. I will make that a focus in another column. The list would not be complete without also mentioning the work of EATA President Sabine Klingenberg, whose responsibilities in that role include sitting as an ex officio member of the ITAA BOT. It is a demanding role, and she does it with both grace and determination. In so doing, she makes a great contribution to both organizations. Thanks to all of the people mentioned here. Their work goes beyond what I can ever truly capture in this space.

The Friday members' meeting was a joyful event for me. I felt upheld in my role by those present, which is what makes the work possible as well as worthwhile. Of all the initiatives we have taken as trustees, there are two major ones that will determine the future of the ITAA. These are the decision to seek partnership with an external publisher for the *Transactional Analysis Journal* and the decision to dissolve the T&CC as it now exists and replace it with a new structure. I was anxious about unfolding these plans for the first time in an open meeting, but they were met with enthusiasm, and the meeting ended with a wonderful vote of confidence in the form of a standing ovation. While a standing ovation may not have any official status in our



At the trainers' meeting, John Heath describes a new vision for ITAA's training and certification structure.

bylaws, there is no doubt that it is a powerful affirmation with event-changing potential. Such is the transformative power of strokes.

The new vision for training and certification was a key part of what was discussed at the trainers' meeting. Not only was the plan well received, but several people have since come forward and expressed their willingness to work in the new structures once they are up and running. That is marvelous news. We were able to carry some of that enthusiasm with us into the final meeting of the conference season, which was the Worldwide Training and Certification Roundtable meeting. Until a few years ago there existed a forum known as the Transactional Analysis Certification Council (TACC). It was never a decision-making body but was formed to "facilitate and coordinate the work" of the various certifying bodies and training standards committees around the world. The TACC had "buy-in" from the ITAA, EATA, and the Western Pacific Association of Transactional Analysis (WPATA) (now renamed the Federation of TA Associations or FTAA) and ran well to make sure that formal transactional analysis qualifications, obtained under the auspices of those bodies, were of parallel standard no matter where in the world they were taken.

Sadly, the TACC has not met for 2 years, and the mutuality of recognition has been in jeopardy as a result. Thankfully, nothing has been irrevocably spoiled and all can be revived, but it needs new energy and, above all, a new consensus for this to happen. I am delighted to report that such energy and consensus was apparent in Chennai, and a task force has been formed, ably coordinated by Mandy Lacy. The task force is to review the existing contracts and formulate a new set of agreements to relaunch the TACC in 2013, possibly under a new name and with wider powers. We meet again at the Osaka conference in August 2013 and, if all has gone well, that will be the inaugural meeting of the new body. This is good news for the coherence of transactional analysis as a worldwide psychological discipline.



ITAA General Membership Meeting

Coordinating the training and examination at the CTA and TSTA levels is clearly the first priority, but I am keen that the new platform might develop a mechanism for the official recognition of regional or pre-CTA qualifications and that we might also be able to invite colleagues in Latin America to link with us. We have much to learn from them.

What was clear to me in all of the meetings I attended was the desire for a coherent system of linkage between all of our various transactional analysis organizations around the world. We discussed this most explicitly at the presidents' meeting. The position of the ITAA in that is always a bit of a conundrum and one I would like, in the next stage of my presidency, to begin to clarify. We are a direct membership organization. It is clear that we represent our members. In contrast, EATA represents its members and also its affiliated national and specialist organizations. The FTAA does the same on the other side of the world. The ITAA can claim a very wide constituency, but beyond the direct membership, it is not clear what that constituency is. It is not clear, for instance, if the ITAA represents transactional analysis in Africa, India, or the United States, though, of course, we have members in all of those places, and we are likely to be the international TA organization to which members in those areas would want to belong. If we could create a means of contractual affiliation between ITAA and those national or specialist organizations that would want us to represent them on the world stage, then the network of responsibility starts to become clear, and the map of the TA world becomes a whole lot simpler.

That is the dream that I think blossomed in Chennai and for which there is an emerging consensus. Part of a leader's job is to be impacted by that and to look for ways to make it manifest. My articulation of that dream is that the transactional analysis organizations of the world want to find a way to sit round a table together and know exactly whom it is that they are speaking for. We are getting back to it, with palpable relief, in the arena of training and certification. The simplest model for the worldwide cooperative governance of TA is to create a forum of regional associations representing subregional, affiliated organizations. To be part of that dream, the ITAA has some work to do in formalizing its constituency. That will be my next focus.

John Heath is President of the ITAA and can be reached by email at johnheath@itaa-net.org .

Upcoming Exams

CTA Exams in Dunedin, New Zealand, will be held on 15 March 2013. The deadline for applying is 15 December 2012. For more information, contact exam coordinator Judith Kime at judith.kime@xtra.co.nz .

Indian Presenters Sparkle in Chennai

As you may have noticed in reading the last Script, *we published two nice articles by some of our South India members about their experience of the conference. We had solicited their input but were a little taken aback at the result. It turns out they wrote exclusively about speeches and workshops given by non-Indian members. In retrospect, that makes sense because those are people whom they would not otherwise have had an opportunity to see and hear. But it left us without any comments about the wonderful workshops given by our Indian transactional analysts, certainly a rich and important feature of the conference. To rectify this, we asked for comments from a few people who attended workshops given by Indians, some of which are excerpted here. We are also pleased to offer Mick Landaiche's thoughtful reflections on his experiences in workshops given by Indians (see page 8). And since we ran out of space in this issue, we will be featuring more post-Chennai articles and material in upcoming* Scripts, *including brief write-ups about some of the symposia and institutes and tributes to members who recently passed away.*



Participants of workshop on "Let's Play—Work Life Balance" with leaders R. Suryakumar (fifth from left) and his wife, Kalpana (fourth from right)

"Let's Play—Work Life Balance" with R. Suryakumar and his wife, Kalpana. Moniek Thunnissen (Netherlands) writes that this workshop offered a nice exchange of views between East and West about how to deal with stress and disturbances in inner balance. Suryakumar described changes in Indian society that have led to fewer extended family living situations and more families with just parents and children. Both parents often work, so instead of the peace and relaxation offered by a larger family, there is often a lot of stress, especially if one parent loses his or her job and income. The work ethos is high in the industrial parts of India, and Suryakumar posed some intriguing questions: Did your overall goal come closer by the work you completed today? When you die, how do you want to be remembered and by whom? Are you doing something that adds value to your life? Are you someone who makes a difference to society? Are there things in your life (family, health, recreation, friendship, community) you rate as important but spend hardly any time on? Babu Shankarasubramaniam (India) adds that this workshop helped him to realize that one needs to find quality time and to closely monitor one's choices to balance life and work so as to reach one's goal.

"Poornam: Let's Play with the Wholeness of Life!" with Geetha Manoharan and C. Suriyaprakash. Roland Johnsson and Annika Bjork (Sweden) describe how participants began with chanting, which put them in the right mood to understand the workshop's meaning. The essence of the Bhagavad Ghita is Poornam, which means wholeness. We are whole as we are. This philosophy goes well with transactional analysis ideas about autonomy and "I'm OK, You're OK." Participants did some exercises that illustrated the philosophical ideas presented. The atmosphere of the workshop was permissive and positive thanks to the presenters' style. John Heath, who also attended, says that the presenters engendered an atmosphere of peace and mindfulness. They talked of a way of knowing that comes from

letting go of the desire of the mind to know things and that knowledge comes from a proper attitude and an evenness of mind called "yoga." We choose our actions, but we cannot choose their consequences, so we must free ourselves from attachment to outcomes and be content with what is. When we are open to see what is, we find that all is part of the wholeness of everything, and this is eternal. John says, "I have the poster from the workshop on the wall of my office. It tells me every day that I must not be troubled by the desire to know more things or to make things happen because I am already whole and free and such strivings will only obscure the real truth. That's a great gift to a busy man."

"TA Model of Depression" with Jaseem Koorankot. Jaseem is pursuing his doctorate in transactional analysis and its application to depressive disorders. Roland Johnsson and Annika Bjork describe how he presented an extensive and ambitious overview of different theories and methods to treat depression and covered many steps in treatment. The connection to transactional analysis was tentative and the answers not all set. This inspired the participants to offer their own suggestions and to elaborate on what was introduced. Roland and Annika said, "This was a useful, interesting workshop combining practical treatment steps with research results."

"Family Constellation: A Dimension of Script" with Annie Cariapa. The inclusive compassion approach allows us to see and feel the hidden dynamics that underlie the family system. Lucy Freedman (United States) says that Annie offered a simple, profound introduction to the core principles of family constellation work and then facilitated a meaningful healing process in which workshop participants engaged as members of many generations of a family. Diane Salters, who also attended, says that Annie's introduction to this work was useful and clear and that she related it to TA concepts such as script and episcript.

"Fun Tools for Learning" with Pushpa B. N. Karen Pratt (South Africa) says that this refreshing, creative workshop highlighted the transactional analysis tool of functional fluency. Participants learned fun ways of engaging with learners in groups, from answering a TA crossword puzzle to using balloons to engage with each other about their favorite TA model. This helped people to feel at ease and connect with others in the group, always an important foundation for any learning. Pushpa used hoola hoops on the floor to represent the ego states, and participants drew slips of paper on which were written behaviors and attitudes and then rushed to stand in the appropriate hoop. Karen writes, "Pushpa built up the functional fluency model as we stood around the ego state hoops while having some dynamic discussions. This was a true TA educator at work! We learned from both the content and the process."

"Model to Understand Relationships" with Ragini Rao. Suriyaprakash (India) writes that Ragini presented the "BEE Model" to understand relationships (BEE stands for Berne, Erskine, and Erikson). She creatively integrated Berne's



Having fun in "Poornam: Let's Play with the Wholeness of Life!" workshop led by Geetha Manoharan and C. Suriyaprakash



Geetha Manoharan and C. Suriyaprakash



Annie Cariapa (left) makes a point in her workshop on "Family Constellation: A Dimension of Script"



Jaseem Koorankot presents on "TA Model of Depression"



Mandisa Mbaligontsi (left) of South Africa enjoys connecting with Haseena Fathima of India



Sailaja Manacha in her workshop titled "Balance Nurture and Structure for Children"

ego states with Erskine's therapeutic operations/principles in relational group therapy and Erikson's stages of development. Suriya found the model to be useful for clients to analyze for themselves where their relationships need improvement and what they need to do from their end to improve them. While therapists could use these as therapeutic operations, clients understand and apply it as principles in relationships. The model offers an understanding at both behavioral and intrapsychic levels and can be a powerful tool in couples therapy. Suriya also thought it could be "a terrific tool for executive coaching and interpersonal relationships in organizations apart from its obvious application in psychotherapy and counseling." Diane Salters also attended the workshop and writes, "I found the exercises very useful in opening up a way of looking at what was needed in a relationship problem area."

"Balance Nurture and Structure for Children" with Sailaja Manacha. Diana Deaconu (Romania) says, "This was a great opportunity for me to put my Martian hat on in order to challenge typical cultural beliefs about family and education. As the only non-Indian participant, I felt welcomed and invited to join in a process of collective thinking. My experience was that the group found a wise way of providing appropriate structure and nurture throughout the time we spent together."

"Contact-in-Relationship: Key to Facilitating the Active Learner" with Sumitra Gautama. Nandini Murali (India) says this workshop explored Erskine's keyhole model of contact-in-relationship as a comprehensive tool for metacognition and training to facilitate active, lifelong learning. In the classroom, teachers need to remember that one is transacting life, not merely academics. As teachers, how aware are we of this? Who we are is what we teach, and we must integrate the cognitive (how we know the world), affective (moods, feelings, and attitudes), behavioral (the individual's response to environmental stimuli), and physiological aspects (bodily responses) of experiencing the world. Such an integration facilitates "bringing the unconscious into the conscious." Contact-in-relationship satisfies several relational needs, such as surety, validation, acknowledgment, and self-definitions that emerge in the interface between two transacting individuals. Effective teaching requires a blend of both the intrapsychic and interpsychic processes of teacher and student. Contact-in-relationship underscores the importance of technical expertise and caring in the teacher because technical expertise without caring is unproductive, and caring without technical expertise is unethical.



Ragini Rao



Sumitra Gautama

Unsettled Gifts from the Chennai Conference

by Mick Landaiche

Traveling to Chennai for the ITAA conference was my first encounter with India—its landscape, culture, and people. As expected, I found these quite complicated, intense, at times overwhelming, and difficult to absorb. Yet I had not anticipated feeling as strongly affected by the conference workshops I attended or to find myself more than a month later still struggling to assimilate their teachings.



Mick Landaiche deep in thought in one of the Chennai workshops he attended

On the first conference day, in the workshop, "Action Learning: Let's Play with Our Adult," **C. Suriyaprakash** (India) introduced a highly structured yet simple model for small groups—in organizations, the community, families, and classroom and clinical settings—to work on problems, to take action based on the group's interaction, to discover how the problem changes, and to learn as a group to collaborate more effectively. With Suriya as the "action learning coach" (keeping us on task), we formed action learning groups to work on problems presented by workshop participants. The primary rule was that anyone could ask a question of anyone in the group, but statements only could be made in response to a question. After an awkward, stumbling start, I was amazed to see clarity emerging quickly and simply from questioning (in contrast to the nonlearning that occurred when we offered advice, that is, made statements not in response to questions). The questions stimulated thinking, enlarging the problem and awareness. The group offered multiple perspectives of curiosity and inquiry. Even when a group appeared lost and frustrated, the person presenting the problem seemed to become more organized, more able to formulate her or his own plan of action. Suriya spoke of these cognitive developments in terms of the Adult ego state. As a participant, I learned firsthand how a simple structure could permit maximum freedom for the development of thinking. Suriya's presentation and willingness to work with us experientially offered me significant learning in the area of group work, a central interest of mine, especially in discovering how groups facilitate learning and accomplishment.

On the second conference day—devoted to symposia in the four fields of transactional analysis—I attended the counseling symposium, formed of three interrelated workshops. The first, by **Bea Verzaal** (Netherlands), "The Spiritual Core of Counseling," reframed the practice of counseling as, at its heart, helping clients reconnect to their inner core or "spirit within," which Verzaal linked to Berne's notion of physis, to the early work of Muriel James ("inner core energies"), and to Clarkson's "aspirational core self." Inviting us to work experientially in pairs, Verzaal guided us in spiritual, meditative practices to focus our attention and energy into the core self and the field of resources available from one another and thus into the immediate moment of being. The experience was revelatory for me in terms of rethinking the often chaotic, intense


K. Raguraman

problems brought in by clients of the university counseling center where I practice. For me, Verzaal radically repositioned the notion of counseling's here-and-now focus as acknowledging the existential dimension of our work. We often have but a short time with a client, whose challenges may seem overwhelming and not realistically resolved quickly, but we may discover how to be with and accept, thus demonstrating a capacity of suffering with that is a mercy in its own right.

Anna Chandy (India) offered the second symposium session, with the deceptively simple title of "Who Am I?" Chandy challenged the dichotomy represented by individualist and collectivist cultures, using dyadic exercises to help us explore our sense of personal identity and that identity's relation to a larger "we." In speaking the question to our partner "Who are you?" and then "Who are you-in-we?" and in simply listening and receiving without speaking, I had the profound sense of hearing the multiple levels of my partner's self-description and history, their meaning to her, and with it her struggle of being a self-in-relation. During my turn to answer the same questions, I found the freedom to articulate a difficulty that has haunted my life these past several years, which my partner's receptive presence (again without words) permitted me to see whole for the first time. I was thus able to see a way through what I had begun, without knowing, to perceive as hopeless.

The last symposium workshop, "Counselor and Counselee in a Dance of the 'Guru Within,'" by **Sashi Chandran** (India), portrayed her personal history of working with profound levels of human pain and suffering in the face of potentially unshakable despair, which took on new meaning and possibility thanks to her growth in the presence and under the guidance of Guru Nitya Chaitanya Yati. "Gu-ru," she explained, meant "removal of darkness." Listening to Chandran's stories, I found myself in tears, moved as much by her vulnerable strength and generosity as by the details of the stories themselves. I had the sense that she embodied the guru tradition, that in speaking she was relaying her mentor's way of being, which in turn took up residence within me such that I could bring some of their spirited, compassionate ways of being into my own workplace and relationships on the other side of the world.

On the last day of the conference, I was drawn to "Pile of Sand or Integrated Whole" by **K. Raguraman** (India), which promised a systems view of organizations. Raguraman used the image of a pile of sand to denote a lack of internal coherence. He contrasted this with the integrated whole of an organization (workplace, family, community, nation) whose activities were directed by a purpose and that kept in mind the organization's position within a larger system. For example, a factory might function well in itself, but if its by-products are also pollution that affects the larger community, it fails to meet the criteria for a truly integrated whole. Raguraman's vision of systems was both organic and highly ethical, in sharp contrast to prevailing imagoes in industrialized nations of businesses as islands answerable only to measures of profit. Yet Raguraman also made room for the traditional concerns of business—the need for resources and efficiencies, the realities of competition—in his highly sophisticated picture, which held implications for personal responsibility (to self and others), leadership, and community. I am in awe of Raguraman's generous offer of an organizing, facilitating framework that managed not to oversimplify and still remain true to my experience of living and working.

I saw that I was learning as much from the presence of each presenter as I was from her or his content. This was especially so with **Srilatha Juvva** (India), whose focus was humility ("Accepting the Other: A Workshop on Humility and Relating"). Juvva led the group discussions with groundedness and clarity in the face of group inclinations to veer off course. She was firm in keeping to task and to her own position, yet not dogmat-


P. K. Saru



Srilatha Juvva enjoys teaching about "Accepting the Other: A Workshop on Humility and Relating"

ic or defensive, and warm in a way that invited thought. In discussing humility, a seemingly familiar, unremarkable notion, Juvva elaborated it as an attitude of being and service, a capacity for accepting the other (not rejecting or shaming), the ability to see the other's need and to meet it, but only if practical. Hers was therefore not a call to self-abnegation. Sensitivity to others' needs must exist in relation to our own. Thus, the more faithfully we listen to the voice within ourselves—our intuitive wisdom—the more effectively we can listen to sounds from outside. Only in humility can we truly serve. Juvva's descriptions and her way of being, so congruent with her ideas, gave me insight into my own struggles to listen within, to clear space in order to truly serve rather than to busily do for others what I am barely doing for myself.

Many of these conference workshops addressed themes that could take lifetimes of work—disciplined thoughtfulness, centeredness, ethical awareness, humility. This was especially the case in "Autonomy: What Part It Plays in Life: TA Perspective versus Gita Philosophy," presented by **P. K. Saru** (India). She examined the ideal of autonomy as elaborated by Berne and compared it to similar ideals presented in the sacred Indian text, the Bhagavad Gita. In doing so, she both honored Berne's intuitive identification of autonomy as a life goal and deepened it in ways Berne could not have as one person in a single lifetime, compared, for example, to the wisdom distilled over many generations in a text like the Gita. In linking a twentieth-century notion to a centuries-old sacred tradition, I began to think about the profound aspirations of this worldwide community of transactional analysts. To what extent are we aware of the reach of what we hope to achieve in our lives as individuals and community members? Transactional analysis principles seem to point in this more expansive direction, as Trudi Newton suggested in her 2010 conference keynote speech in Montreal when she linked the culture of generosity in the transactional analysis community to much older traditions of gift giving as integral components of certain stable, vibrant societies.



Sashi Chandran in workshop

Among these varied workshops, themes, and presenters, I felt intensely excited to recognize their relevance to my work. I was touched in ways that I have been unable to convey to colleagues, friends, and family back home. I still have not integrated the impact of this learning into my work and life. My hope is that this disorganized presence will be quietly, surely growing into the kind of awareness I might use more intentionally, even if not with full consciousness. Such [illegible]e the

Mick Landaiche, PhD, is a psychotherapist and training supervisor for the student counseling center at Carnegie Mellon University in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. He can be reached at mlandaiche@gmail.com .

Upcoming TAJ Theme Issue

"Transactional Analysis and Groups"
Editors: Jo Stuthridge & Francis Bonds-White
Deadline for Manuscripts: extended to 1 February 2013

Submission requirements:
http://itaaworld.org/index.php/transactional-analysis-journal/taj-submission-requirements

First SAATA Diploma

by Susan George

Our rigorous training and certification process, which also allows for accounting of regional needs, has been one of the strengths of our transactional analysis community. This was further underscored by the roundtable about worldwide training and certification held in Chennai on Sunday, 12 August, following the conference. While this rigor is essential to produce effective practitioners, the journey can be experienced as long and strenuous.

To chunk down the process, provide milestones along this journey, and also cater to those looking for a shorter training and certification experience, the South Asian Association of Transactional Analysts (SAATA) launched two intermediate certifications last year. They are the Diploma in Transactional Analysis and the Advanced Diploma in Transactional Analysis.

These intermediate certifications can be an end in themselves for those who are looking for knowledge and skills for use in personal and professional contexts. They will also provide consolidation, evaluation, affirmation, and motivation on the journey toward Certified Transactional Analyst (CTA), which certifies for professional application in the person's chosen field.

Conferences are opportunities to conduct examinations and also to celebrate successful candidates. The same was true of the 2012 SAATA-ITAA Conference in Chennai. SAATA used this setting to award its first Diploma in Transactional Analysis alongside the celebration of the CTAs, Teaching and Supervising Transactional Analysts (TSTAs), and Teaching Transactional Analysts (TTAs) who passed their exams in Chennai. Suchitra Ramkumar, a doctor by training and an educator and counselor by choice, received this award at the inaugural function of the conference. SAATA is proud of this and looks forward to enhancing its training and examination process with the support of the worldwide transactional analysis community.

It is appropriate to acknowledge the contribution of Charlotte Daellenbach and Elana Leigh in our professional growth here in South India. They came each year to lead us in the multilevel training (MLT) and then stepped aside to allow Indian TSTAs and PTSTAs to take the lead. The both returned this year to be part of the MLT and to affirm our coming of age. We also gratefully acknowledge the role played by many others who laid the foundation for the transactional analysis community in India: Fr. George Kandathil, Carlos and Saroj Welch, Marijke Wusten, and Julie Hay, to name a few. There are many others, not named here, who have contributed and continue to contribute to the growth of transactional analysis here in many ways. Our salutations for this generous and unstinted giving of yourselves!



Suchitra Ramkumar (left) receives her SAATA Diploma in Transactional Analysis from Susan George

Susan George is ITAA Vice President of Development and SAATA Vice President of Training & Examination. She can be reached at susangeorge4@yahoo.com .

SKYPE SUPERVISION

Diane Salters, TSTA
&
Joanna Beazley Richards, TSTA

offer
Transactional analysis psychotherapy supervision by Skype or telephone in English

Cost: £80
per one-hour session.

Contact details:
Diane: dsalters@iafrica.com
Joanna:
joanna@wealdeninstitute.co.uk



2013 ITAA International Conference in OSAKA

"Recovery, Rebirth, New Beginnings"

14-17 August Osaka, Japan

Watch the conference website at http://2013itaa.com for details and the call for proposals

The conference opens on the evening of 14 August. There will be CTA/TSTA exams, a preconference TA 101, postconference institutes, a TEW beginning on 18 August, and the worldwide roundtable on training and certification on 18 August.

With joy and excitement, we invite you to the 2013 ITAA Conference in Osaka, Japan. The theme of "Recovery, Rebirth, New Beginnings" has special significance to us following the 11 March 2011 great East Japan earthquake and tsunami. With countless helping hands, the affected areas are reawakening and being reconstructed. Restoration, revitalization, and new departures are processes we repeatedly conduct in our minds as well, which makes the theme relevant for this first conference to be held in Far East Asia. We, the members of the host committee (ICHC), are working with volunteers to create an exciting conference. In Japan, traditional culture and modern technology coexist, and we hope you will enjoy this unique setting and opportunity to interact with TA people in Japan. We understand that distance, cost, and language may concern some, but we are working to create an environment in which all participants will feel at home and be able to enjoy the new experience.

Conference Chair Mineyasu Sugita and ICHC Chair Chie Shigeta

It is an honor and joy for the Japanese Society of Transactional Analysis (JSTA) to welcome you to the 2013 ITAA conference. JSTA is the only academic society for transactional analysis in Japan that publishes a scientific journal. Simultaneous with the ITAA conference, we will have our 38th Annual JSTA Congress, the theme of which is "Light and Shadow: Psychological Integration." We trust that the programs of the ITAA Conference and the JSTA Congress will be harmonized and integrated and that participants will be able to enjoy both.

JSTA Congress Chair Ryoko Shimada

The 2013 ITAA International Conference in Osaka will be the most exciting event not only for the existing worldwide transactional analysis community but also for potential TA people in Japan. There are three major TA communities here with a total of 5,000 members. The majority of them are not yet aware of the existence of the ITAA, EATA, FTAA, and other TA organizations. We hope as many people as possible who belong to the Japanese TA communities will come together at the ITAA conference and meet transactional analysts from all over the world.

General Secretary Tomoko Abe

New Editorial Board Members Sought

The *TAJ* coeditors are looking for new members of the editorial board for the term 2013-2015. If you are interested in being considered for an editorial board position and would like a job description, please email your name, country, and a brief statement about your areas of interest/expertise and your experience in writing and/or editing to *TAJ* Managing Editor robinfryer@aol.com by 15 November.

ITAA Award Nominations Sought

Eric Berne Memorial Award
Deadline: 1 December 2012

Hedges Capers Humanitarian Award
Muriel James Living Principles Award
Goulding Social Justice Award
Nominations Deadline:
1 January 2013

See the ITAA Web site at http://itaaworld.org/index.php/about-the-itaa/itaaawards or contact the ITAA at info@itaaworld.org for details on making nominations for these awards. Send EBMA nominations to C. Suriyaprakash at suriya.sunshine@gmail.com .